

The Bel Aire Breeze

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Complimentary copy

One closes while the other opens



Photos by Chris Hunter

Kaydyn Davison, 7, stands on stage with local politicians, architects, builders and celebrities after she cut the ribbon to open the Intrust Bank Arena as balloons fall from the ceiling on Jan. 2. After many years of planning, the arena is open for business.

Britt Brown Arena hosts final events, Intrust just getting started

By Chris Hunter

For Britt Brown, Jan. 9 was a somber night. For Intrust Bank Arena, it was the beginning of a new era. Thunder in one. Brad Paisley in the other.

Sedgwick County's entertainment complex is no longer up north. It's in the heart of Wichita.

Britt Brown Arena, which has hosted events for more 30 years, completed its run Jan. 9 after the Wichita Thunder hockey game. It will no longer host sporting events.

Over 5,000 fans watched the final game in Britt Brown. The Thunder started playing its home games at Intrust Bank Arena on Jan. 23.

Thunder officials used the last game to honor its All-Coliseum team — Travis Clayton, Jason Duda, Tom Roulston, Brad Knelson, Sean O'Reilly and Bobby Desjardins.

And Sedgwick County Commissioner Kelly Parks dropped the ceremonial puck before the game.

He was greeted with a mixed reception from the crowd but received cheers after a pledge to "save the Britt Brown from the



Commissioner Kelly Parks (center) prepares to drop the ceremonial first puck with Wichita Thunder's Chris McAllister (left) and the Odessa Jackalopes' Kory Karlander (right) at the final Thunder game at the Kansas Coliseum on Jan. 9.

bulldozers" and to find a use for the building.

While Britt Brown may not be bulldozed anytime soon, finding a use for it likely will be the county's biggest challenge.

The pavilions, meanwhile, remain in use.

From Jan. 6 to Jan. 10, long lines were the norm as people flooded to the RV show at the Sam Fulco pavilion.

"Attendance was good," said RV show president James Ramsey. "I was very surprised at the attendance and sales. It is the best show I have had in the last five years. We sold a lot of stuff."

Dealers from across the state crammed into the pavilion in hopes of selling trailers and RVs. Ramsey said the RV show demonstrated the usefulness of the pavilions.

"Actually the show is as full as it has ever been and attendance is up over the last two," Ramsey said. "We couldn't get anymore trailers in there if we tried."

"We had more dealers. The show was full. We were glad to see the pavilions still open. They are a perfect place for an RV show. I think attendance showed people will come out for a show."

Ramsey said he is already looking forward to next year's show.

While Britt Brown's future remains in jeopardy, the county has voted to continue funding the pavilions until a solution can be found for the property.

Britt Brown facility will host the Sport, Boat and Travel Show in February as its last event.

Meanwhile in downtown Wichita, Intrust Bank Arena came alive for the first time in January with a public open house.

Hundreds waited in line to enter the new arena, but by the time the ribbon was cut, several thousand were either sitting watching the performances or roaming the halls.

A performance from the Marching Cobras drum and dance group greeted those who entered

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County, Park City settle jail fee suit

City pays fraction of
what county says it owes

By Chris Hunter

For over two years, Park City, Haysville, Goddard, Bel Aire and Wichita have been locked in a court battle with Sedgwick County over jail fees.

With a trial date set for May 2010 and no closure in sight, the Park City council voted 7-0 on Jan. 26 to attempt to settle with Sedgwick County for a fraction of the amount the county says it owes.

And Sedgwick County accepted.

At the heart of the fight has been an attempt by Sedgwick County to charge cities \$2.09 per hour to house inmates in the county jail in Wichita. Some cities argue Sedgwick County was intentionally exempt from a 1985 state law allowing counties to charge such fees, saying a piece of its property taxes goes toward the jail's operation.

Cities and their jail fee balances

Wichita: \$7 million
Haysville: \$145,419
Bel Aire: \$95,656
Goddard: \$32,144
Cheney: \$7,268
Garden Plain: \$2,883
Colwich: \$809

When the county instituted the fees two years ago, Park City and a handful of other cities chose to not pay them, saying city residents were essentially being double-taxed for the jail. Others, such as Valley Center, decided to pay.

The county subsequently took the non-paying cities to court.

For two years, however, Park City has set aside nearly \$138,000 to cover the possible losses should the county win the lawsuit.

"The City of Park City has prudently encumbered the amount we owe," said Park City Attorney Doug Moshier. "While we haven't paid, we have the money in the bank."

Moshier said during the time, Park City's municipal court judge and staff have looked to reduce the number of suspects taken to the jail.

Moshier said he has been talking with Sedgwick County attorneys for the past two months and had prepared a bold settlement plan for Park City to present to the county.

In the settlement, Park City offered to pay the county \$36,450 in exchange for dropping Park City from the lawsuit.

"It would be about 26 percent of what we owe," Moshier said. "I believe this in the best interest of Park City. I don't think there will be a better settlement chance from here forward."

Park City administrator Jack Whitson said the payment would basically be the amount Park City owed after Sedgwick

See JAIL, Page 2

Bel Aire looking at increase in water rates

By Chris Hunter

Living in Bel Aire might get a little more expensive in the coming weeks.

The Bel Aire City Council listened to a presentation from City Administrator Ty Lasher on Jan. 19 about a proposed increase to the base water rate.

"There has been no rate increase since the rate increase of 2002," Lasher told the council. "There is no money for repairs or investment."

For 2009, Lasher had budgeted revenues of \$1,967,772 but the city only received \$1,248,532.26, a difference of over \$700,000.

Lasher said the city needs \$1.7 million to effectively pay for the water from the Chisholm Creek Utility Authority but current rates are not enough.

In a presentation, Lasher called for an \$8 increase in the monthly base from \$14 up to \$22 for residential customers and an increase of \$14 for

commercial customers, up to \$32 from \$18.

The city's tier system would remain unchanged, except for the normal 3 percent annual increase.

Lasher expects the increase to raise an additional \$254,496 in guaranteed revenues.

"It will generate a safeguard against wet years," Lasher said. "We didn't think we would have a wet year after a wet year, but we did."

Lasher said the water board sup-

ports the measure.

For 5,100 gallons of water, Lasher said a citizen's water rate would be \$35.73.

With sewer charges, Lasher said the total would be about \$83.

"Look at other things we say we have to have and what we have," Lasher said, referring to cable and phone services. "We are paying \$83 for water and sewer, something we have to have to live."

Council member Dave Sly said the

increase equated to a "movie ticket" or "two gallons of milk."

Lasher pointed out water bills in Bel Aire contain more than water with sewer, recycling, trash and even a state tax.

"Part of the problem is we call it a water bill," said Mayor Harold Smith. "It is more of a utility bill. It is not accurate."

The council will determine the future of the proposed increase on Feb. 2.

TABOR-like efforts are dangerous

There is already talk in the Kansas Legislature of returning various forms of the Taxpayers Bill of Rights (TABOR) to the floor.

While some people in Topeka have told me TABOR has no chance, versions of it are being bandied about.

In recent weeks, Sedgwick County commissioners Karl Peterjohn, Kelly Parks and Gwen Welshimer said they support TABOR-like initiatives.

TABOR essentially gives taxpayers a vote on tax increases.

A bill being introduced by Rep. Steve Brunk, R-Bel Aire, will take away the ability of cities and counties to regulate their own taxes by forcing the governments to lower and raise taxes based on state regulations.

On the surface, many would say this seems like a good idea. But there is a dark side.

While I trust people for the most part, when it comes to money and taxes, most only do what is in their best interests, not that of the city, county or state.

How many people want their taxes to

Hunting for the truth

By Chris Hunter



go up?

Yes, the United States is a representative democracy.

We elect people to vote on issues for us because a pure democracy, where everyone gets a vote, is not feasible in a country of 400 million.

Think of the current financial fiasco going on in this country, specifically in California where TABOR is the law of the land.

Local municipalities cannot raise the necessary money to pay for the services, nor can the state.

Also, taxes on houses never go up because people will not vote for increases.

Yes, your house may be worth \$1 million but you are only paying taxes on

the \$400,000 you bought the house for.

Now let's take a look closer to home.

The towns, counties and state governments would be affected in many ways.

Yes, TABOR might cut out a small amount of wasteful spending, but the unintended consequence could mean massive layoffs. Government employees are taxpayers, too.

How would agencies like to explain to their employees, such as police officers, that they will no longer be able to retain them because there simply is not enough money?

All government employees would be at risk should this type of policy become enacted, something many do not seem to have a problem with.

In a time when jobs are scarce, can we afford more cuts?

How would TABOR affect a little town called Kechi in this financial crisis?

Remember last summer? Kechi was in desperate need of a tax increase because funds were not coming into the city at the rate they should have been.

Worst-case scenario: Would Kechi even exist today if the city had not been allowed to raise the taxes because citizens voted against it?

How long would the process take to get a tax increase if citizens did vote for an increase? Six months? A year? Would the increase be enough?

In the end, Kechi would probably lose its charter because the residents would not vote for a tax increase, even with the support of residents who pay attention to the debate.

While the county commission is mistakenly supporting measures like this, groups such as the Kansas League of Municipalities, Kansas National Educators Association and most cities are not.

This would be a disaster for our state, just as it has been in Colorado, California and a host of other states.

Let us hope it dies a quick death should it even be brought up.

Chris Hunter is a writer for The Bel Aire Breeze. Reach him at 755-0821 or hunter@arkvalleynews.com.

Arenas

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the main arena as they tried out seats from top to bottom and across the arena.

Around 11 a.m., arena manager Chris Presson took center stage and gave visitors a brief history of the facility.

Presson was joined on stage by local politicians and celebrities.

Among the group were current and former county commissioners Carolyn McGinn, Ben Sciortino, Tom Winters, Lucy Burnnett, Dave Unruh and Tim Norton, as well as former Wichita State athletes Mike Pelfrey and Antoine Carr.

Absent from the event were commissioners Parks and Gwen Welshimer.

In remarks before the ribbon cutting, Norton said he made his decision to support the taxpayer-funded arena with his grandchildren in mind.

"Today, all of the young people here, this one is for you," Norton said. "Enjoy it for many, many years as you see your first concert, go to your first NCAA basketball game or go to the circus with your kids and grandkids. This one is for you."

After Norton's comments, Presson called 7-year-old Kaydyn Davison to the front.

Davison was selected to cut the ribbon after winning a drawing contest in the Wichita Eagle.

Standing between Unruh and Norton, and with the help of her father, Davison took a giant pair of wooden scissors to the ribbon.

With a bit of effort, the ribbon fell to the floor and fireworks went off inside the arena. That was followed by a balloon drop.

As the group on stage watched the balloons, two men with T-shirt launchers fired into the crowd.

"We had a phenomenal turnout," Presson said. "It was



Chris Hunter

Former NBA and Wichita State star Antoine Carr signs an autograph for Lucas Speer, 10, of Derby at the opening of Intrust Bank Arena on Jan. 2. Carr and former Shocker pitcher Mike Pelfrey helped open the arena.

a great event. It means we are officially open. It is a day we have worked toward."

People crowded the arena floor to look around and enjoy basketball, face painting, autographs and even shooting hockey pucks at Thunderdog.

Other items on display were the concessions, many reduced in price for the open house.

Unruh said he is glad the arena is finally open and is happy with the county's accomplishment.

"We are all very proud we got to this point in time," Unruh said. "It is an outstanding facility and so nicely done. It is something folks in all of southcentral Kansas will truly be proud of. Everyone is looking forward to the next event."

McGinn, who was on the county commission before being elected to the Kansas Senate, said she was thrilled to see the county finish the building.

"To think of all the hard work that was done," she said. "I think people in our region and all across the state are going to enjoy it. I think it is going to help us grow even more. It is a very special building and I think it will be

a wonderful amenity to our community."

McGinn said she liked the look and feel of the building because of the "family atmosphere" and "Old Town brick."

"Everyone is thoroughly impressed by the quality of the interior," Unruh said. "It is going to be very flexible and able to be used for a lot of events."

Presson said SMG wanted showcase the flexibility of the building to people visiting.

Throughout the day, Presson said he heard primarily one word from people who had come up to talk to him.

"Wow" is the biggest word I have heard," Presson said. "That is what we wanted to create is that wow factor."

Valley Center High School graduate Brian Asbury said he felt the county did a "surprisingly great job" on the arena.

"I was a little bit pessimistic," Asbury said. "I thought it was going to be a big challenge to park but I didn't have a problem parking. Granted, this isn't an exceptionally large venue, but we found parking on the street. It wasn't very difficult. I hope it is just as easy with larger events."

Norton said he expects the

building to be the pride of southcentral Kansas.

"It is going to be as good of an event center as anyone in the Midwest has," Norton said. "It will compare to the Ford Center (Oklahoma City), the BOK Center (Tulsa) and the Sprint Center (Kansas City). We didn't skimp with the taxpayer money to make sure it is something that will last a long time. It is a beautiful building with beautiful architecture."

The future

With Britt Brown set to hold its last event in February, county manager Bill Buchanan last month notified members of a management team the future of the facility.

"As you know, the new Intrust Bank Arena, owned by Sedgwick County and operated by SMG, opened with Brad Paisley on Saturday, January 9," Buchanan said in an e-mail to members of his management staff. "With the opening of the Intrust Bank Arena, the Britt Brown Arena at the Kansas Coliseum will discontinue operations (be mothballed), as planned, following the last event, the Sport, Boat and Travel Show, which will be held February 18 to 21."

In the e-mail, Buchanan laid out plans for the near future of the Kansas Coliseum complex.

Buchanan told the team the county commission had voted to keep the pavilions open during the 2010 budget, despite a recommendation from county staff to shut down the complex.

"In an effort to have the pavilions operate on a break-even basis, an internal task team is working to develop a plan to create a break-even operation," Buchanan said. "Possibly as early as 2012."

Buchanan said the task force suggested the reduction of expenses used at the pavilions, attempting to increase user revenues, more advertising and sponsors, and finding new events.

A few county workers may be feeling the squeeze.

"Analysis by the internal task team indicates that one area where significant reductions in expenditures are possible after Britt Brown discontinues operations in February is personnel costs," Buchanan said. "This was a tough decision to have to make at this time but is necessary based on the current event schedule for the pavilions. In order to create an efficient operating system for the pavilions based on current usage, full-time staffing will be reduced and supplemented with part-time employees."

Buchanan's suggestion for staffing the Kansas Coliseum pavilions include eight full-time employees and 20 part-time employees.

The reduction would cause the "displacement" of 10 full-time employees.

Buchanan stated employees had been notified of a "reduction-in-force" to take effect Feb. 27.

Buchanan hopes to reassign some of the workers within the county.

Buchanan said employees are able to apply for publicly posted jobs and in-house jobs.

While Britt Brown Arena's future does not look bright, Intrust Bank Arena is picking up steam.

In order for the arena to be successful, Presson stressed the need for support.

"The number one thing for us to do in Wichita is sell tickets," Presson said. "To continue to have large event after large event after large event, we have to buy tickets. If we continue to buy tickets, the sky is the limit."

Norton said he believes attendees will leave satisfied.

"I think people will be pleasantly surprised," Norton said. "You are always going to have people who are negative or skeptical. A lot of times, that washes away. Success has a million fathers and failure is an orphan. We have booked some great acts in here."

cided to move forward, Bel Aire city administrator Ty Lasher said his city also may settle.

"I haven't talked to the council, but (attorney Lee Parker) and I felt the process is already moving along," Lasher said. "It looks like Sedgwick County would like to settle. We thought we came this far, and I think everyone wants to settle, we thought we would work as a team and settle instead of going out on own. Each side is interested in settling. We are going to continue to work with the county."

Moshier said the situation seems to him to be win-win.

"There have been assurances by the county to cities paying all along that they would pay the cities back if the county lost," Moshier said. "Park City is not in that position because we made this deal. We will never have to pay the 74 percent if the county wins the case. If the county wins and they do have the authority, the other cities that have been paying would have to no right to get money back."

Jail

Continued from Page 1

County passed a charter resolution last summer removing itself from the state law.

According to the settlement, the city will pay the full cost of all future jail fees.

Moshier said the lawsuit could drag on for more than two years after appeals.

"Am I understanding this correctly by settling this lawsuit that the county is right in the first place?" asked former Mayor Dee Stuart. "That is what it sounds like."

Moshier said Sedgwick County has said they would pay back cities that have paid their fees if the county loses in court.

"If it turns out, legally, the proposition that (Stuart) states is correct, then what I have advised the council is we still win," Moshier said. "In my opinion, we will get our money back if the case turns out that way."

As Bel Aire, Wichita, Goddard and Haysville push forward, Moshier said he expects only a less than 50 percent success chance for cities.

Council member Chris Youngers said discussions regarding the elimination of the police department had taken place with suggestions that the sheriff take over patrol of the city.

"What I am saying is, if we don't enforce our rules here, the county is still obliged to enforce rules," Youngers said. "Sedgwick County would be responsible for enforcing laws in Park City. They would be the laws of Sedgwick County and the State of Kansas. If we are going to have our own identity, we are going to have to pay for that identity."

No one on the council seemed interested in building a jail in the city.

Youngers said he supported Moshier's settlement proposal.

After the proposal was

passed by Park City, the county commission voted 5-0 to accept the settlement less than 24 hours later at the weekly commission meeting on Jan. 25.

The vote came after an executive session.

"We are delighted," said county manager Bill Buchanan of the offer. "It is a fair offer and good government when we get to settle with someone. You hate to go to court against your friends. We are glad we get to do this."

Moshier said he expects other cities to follow in Park City's footsteps.

Commissioner Kelly Parks, who represents Park City, said he could not comment on the settlement because of the ongoing lawsuit with the other cities.

Buchanan said he has yet to hear from other cities but said the county and Park City attorneys have been working on the settlement for "a while."

While Park City has de-

Cash part of buyers' choices

Gone are the days of people wanting to move to towns only because of the atmosphere.

Nowadays, people are also looking for the best deal.

We were glad to see the Park City council approve its newest version of the homebuyers incentive program.

The program was responsible for selling 40 new homes during the first half of 2009, but curiously the council decided against renewing it.

As a result, a slow finish to the year in new homes sales, 25, may have given at least Mayor Emil Bergquist a change of heart on the issue when he decided to vote to break the council tie to restart the program.

We agree with Bergquist's assessment that while the future is murky "we do know the framework that has been built for balanced growth."

We believe the incentive of \$1,000 the council voted to give to up to 20 homebuyers will go along way toward spurring continued housing activity in Park City.

As we saw with the first program, which gave \$500, people will come if developers and cities give them a reason to move in.

The city's money isn't the only incentive spurring interest. Developers have kicked in refunds and the federal government is offering a \$8,000 tax credit, creating a perfect storm for activity.

We are surprised at the opposition several council members showed, even in the face of the success the program experienced in its trial run.

One town we were not surprised to see incentives from late last year was Kechi.

Because of unpaid specials from some developers, the city decided to find a way to bring people to the city.

In November, Kechi announced it would offer up to \$4,800 off fees for housing starts in the city's Rocke Pointe development and by Jan. 1, the city issued three new housing permits.

We believe the incentive programs will help Park City and Kechi compete with other cities in the tight housing market. And with uncertainty in the economic future of the country, cities need all the help they can get to promote themselves.

Other cities should follow suit or risk being left behind.

Times are changing and cities must adapt.

The results have shown incentives attract people and businesses to cities.

Bergquist said he hopes the incentives will help to spur 2010.

We do too.

— The Bel Aire Breeze

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City of Bel Aire



NOTES FROM CITY HALL

City Manager charter ordinance The City Manager Charter Ordinance was approved for publication on Jan. 5, 2010. There is a 60-day window to residents to submit a petition to challenge the charter ordinance change. For more details on this proposed change and ordinance, go to the Bel Aire Web site, under Citizenship University.	February. Proposed water rate increases were introduced at the Jan. 11 workshop and the Jan. 19 council meeting. The PowerPoint proposal is available on the Bel Aire Web site. Regular City Council meetings are scheduled for 7 p.m. Feb. 2 and 16, in the Council Chamber. A City Council workshop may be scheduled for Feb. 8 depending on need. Agenda and updated information are available online at www.belaireks.gov . Current meetings are broadcast live on Cable Channel 7 and rebroadcast daily at 9 a.m., noon, and at 5 and 10 p.m.
Water rates and budget The City Council will continue its discussion of water rates and the 2010 budget throughout	Pay city bills with your credit card All fees and utility bills can now be paid with credit cards. Customers will pay a 2.5% (minimum \$1.50 fee) transaction charge per transaction. Utility bill payments can be paid online by following the secure link at www.belaireks.gov . To make an online payment, residents will need their account number. Payments made after the 10th of each month are still subject to late penalties. Please call for total amount due if making a payment after the 10th.

CITY OF BEL AIRE UPCOMING EVENTS	
February	
1	Senior Potluck, 6:30 p.m.
2	City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
3	Chamber of Commerce, noon
	Municipal court, first appearances, 7 p.m.
8	City Council workshop, 6:30 p.m.
9	Water Board, 2:30 p.m.
10	Bel Aire Lions Club, noon
11	Planning Commission, 6 p.m.
15	Tree Board, 7 p.m.
16	City council meeting, 7 p.m.
18	Municipal Court, trials, 12:30 p.m.
23	Economic Development Board, 7 p.m.
24	Bel Aire Lions Club, noon

Bel Aire Recreation

5251 E. 48th North • www.belaireks.gov • 744-2700
Mon., Tue., & Thur. 8-8 • Wed. & Fri. 8-7 • Sat. 9-3

Boys' basketball For boys ages 5-11. Practices are underway and games started in January. View the current schedule on the city's Web site at www.belaireks.gov .	Taekwondo We are accepting registrations for ages 5 and up. Classes meet from 5 to 6 p.m. Monday and Friday, or from 7:10 to 8:10 p.m. Monday and Thursday. Great classes for beginners to black belts.
Coed indoor soccer An activity for ages 4 thru 11. Signup deadline was Jan. 30, but late registrations may be accepted if space allows. Practice begins Feb. 22.	Tai-chi A great activity for adults of all ages. This class meets the first Saturday morning of the month. A new class will be starting at 6:10 p.m. Fridays
Holiday crafts Sign up for the first session of the year. The class is for kids ages 5 thru 10 and will be held at 10 a.m. Feb. 6. Registration is required.	Yoga Classes are held at 6:10 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays
	Fitness center (ages 16 & up) Live up to your New Year's resolution and join today. A yearly membership costs less than what you would pay in one month at other facilities. The center consists of elliptical cross trainers, treadmills, recumbent bike, multi-station weight machine and free-weights.
	2010 activity schedule The schedule has been mailed to Bel Aire residents. Additional copies can be picked up at the Rec Center or at City Hall.
	For more information on these or any Bel Aire Recreation Programs call 744-2700.

Get to know your Bel Aire parks

In conjunction with the release of the Bel Aire Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan, the City will be profiling all parks in Bel Aire.	walking trail.	there are no plans to expand the park.
Eagle Lake Park Size: seven acres Type: Community Park Location: Eagle Lake Subdivision Amenities: Shelter, public barbeque grills, composite play structure, swing set, volleyball court, composite benches and		

Bel Aire Senior Center

All events are held at the Bel Aire Senior Center, 7651 E. Central Park Ave., unless otherwise noted and are for ALL SENIORS living in or near Bel Aire.

For any information about the Bel Aire Senior Center and its activities, contact Rick Eberhard, Senior Director, at either 744-2451, extension 121, or reberhard@belaireks.gov
Officer hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday

BEL AIRE SENIOR LIBRARY IS OPEN TO ALL BEL AIRE RESIDENTS
8 AM to 5 PM, MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY

Any senior can belong to or attend more than one senior center/club in Sedgwick County

Sr. Walking	Every weekday, 8 to 9 a.m., Bel Aire Rec Center
Yoga	Every Monday, 6:10 p.m., Bel Aire Rec Center
Bridge	Every Tuesday, 1 p.m.
Aerobics	Every Wednesday, 10 a.m.
Sr. Breakfast	Every Friday, 9 a.m. at Braum's, 3641 N. Rock Road, with Kechi Over 55 Club (except second Friday of the month)
Wii time	By request or when the senior center is available.
Feb. 1, 6 p.m.	Monthly covered dish dinner. Bring table service and food dish. Drinks will be provided. Katie Dexter from Home Buddy Medical Alerts will demonstrate some of the latest technology devices for your home.
Feb. 3, 12:15 p.m.	Lunchtime lecture: Butterfly Gardening by Elsie Neumann. Learn what to plant to attract caterpillars and adult butterflies to your garden.
6 p.m.	Senior center advisory board.
Feb. 4-7	Bel Aire booth at the 58th annual Home Show, Century II (admission charge).
Feb. 8, 7 p.m.	Central Park Homeowners Association monthly meeting.
Feb. 9, 10 a.m.	Tuesday Morning Wellness Clinic. Free blood pressure and blood sugar checks. Discuss the benefits of hospice care. Coffee and snacks provided. Fast for two hours before blood sugar check. Held on the second Tuesday each month.
Feb. 9	Older Kansans' Day at the Capitol. Contact your state Legislators to educate and advocate for services and programs for Kansas seniors.
Feb. 10, noon	Bel Aire Lions Club catered lunch and meeting.
Feb. 11, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.	Senior Arts and Crafts Day. Bring your favorite projects to work on and share. Bring a snack lunch or something microwavable for lunch at noon. Coffee will be provided. This event will occur on the second Thursday of each month.
Feb. 12, 9 a.m.	Breakfast and Learn. Complimentary breakfast and learning program to be held on the second Friday of each month with a different speaker.
7 p.m.	Senior Fun Night. Bring your favorite card or board game and snacks or finger food. Drinks will be provided. To be held on the second Friday of each month.
Feb. 13, TBA	Red Hat Society. Call Vivian at 744-0217 for more information.
Feb. 19, 8:30 a.m.	Ethnogeriatrics: Understanding Diversity and Aging seminar. Dugan Conference Center at Newman University, 3100 W. McCormick, Wichita.
Feb. 20, 5 p.m.	Dinner with Friends. A new bi-monthly program for you to get to know those you see and talk with at the Senior Center. Meet at the center and car pool to Carriage Crossing in Yoder for supper (weather updates, if needed, at 734-7530).
Feb. 21, TBA	Single Seniors Dine Out. Call 558-2820 for details.
Feb. 24, noon to 7 p.m.	Lions Club catered lunch and meeting.
Feb. 26, 7 to 10 p.m.	Bunko in the Senior Room.
March 6	Senior pitch party. An evening of 10-point pitch. Bring snacks or finger food to share. Complimentary drinks. Held on fourth Friday of each month.
	Lions club fundraiser tickets are on sale for the spaghetti supper from any member. Supper will be held at the Plymouth Congregational Church, 200 N. Clifton, Wichita.

The Bel Aire Lions Club is collecting eye glasses no longer being used. Drop them off in the Senior Center or water office at city hall.

Sign up for one of four "Senior Cruises in 2010" offered by the Bel Aire Senior Center (all packages include airfare from the Kansas City airport):
May 24 — Carnival Cruise on the Carnival Glory: The Bahamas (6 days, five nights)
Aug. 28 — Princess Cruise on the Princess Diamond: Alaska (8 days, 7 nights)
Oct. 23 — Royal Caribbean Cruise on the Explorer of the Seas: Bermuda (6 days, 5 nights)
Oct. 28 — Norwegian Cruise Line Hawaiian Cruise (10 days, 9 nights)
For reservations, price sheet and specific cruise information, contact Rick Eberhard, Senior Director, at either 744-2451, extension 121, or reberhard@belaireks.gov. (*passports will be required.*)

Contact Rick Eberhard, Senior Director of the Bel Aire Senior Center, at either 744-2451, extension 121, or e-mail reberhard@belaireks.gov to receive the Bel Aire Senior Center news, information, special events and upcoming trips electronically or via the U.S. mail.

Notes from the Utility Department

We now have an ACH program available for our utility costumers. Fill out a form, attach a voided check and return both to the utility department. Payment of your utility bill will be taken out of your checking account on the 5th of each month. No more late fees.	††† If you have a new cell phone number or home phone number, please let the water department know so we can add them to your record. These may come in handy for emergencies or if we need to get in touch with for one reason or another.
††† If you did not receive a recycling cart, call 744-2451, extension 132, give us your name and address and we will order a cart for you. No more bags as everything goes in one cart. Recycling is picked up every other week. Trash is still picked up every week.	††† New to Bel Aire? Call the Utility Department to get information about signing up for city utilities. You will need a \$50 connect fee, photo I.D. and either a Social Security or tax I.D. number.

Bel Aire Senior Club

Activities are held at 4551 N. Auburn unless otherwise noted. Those 55-plus are welcome to participate. For information on programs and services for seniors, contact Vicki Shepard, Tri-City Senior Director, at 744-1199. The club is self-governed and activities benefit all participating seniors.

- Monday through Friday, 8 to 9 a.m., walking at Bel Aire Rec Center.
- Wednesdays 2:30 p.m., free line dancing lessons, Park City Senior Center.
- Thursdays 11:30 a.m., computer class at Park City Senior Center (no charge)
- Thursdays 2:30 p.m., free line dancing lessons, Park City Senior Center.
- Thursday mornings (except for second Thursday each month), Wii open play, Park City Senior Center.
- 8 a.m., Brain Academy; 9 a.m. Bowling; 10 a.m. Tennis; 11 a.m. Balance board.

AARP sponsored tax assistance is available this month at the Park City Senior Center. Call Vicki to make an appointment (744-1199)

Feb. 2, 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast out, Jimmie's Egg on East 21st North
Feb. 4, 11:30 a.m.	Free massages provided by Dopps Family Chiropractic. Park City Senior Center.
Feb. 8, 10 a.m.	Board meeting.
11:30 a.m.	Lunch; location to be announced.
Feb. 9	Foot care with Harris Healthcare, Park City Senior Center. Call Harris Healthcare at 751-4828 to make an appointment.
Feb. 10, 11 a.m.	Foot care (for those who don't qualify for Harris Healthcare). Brenda Ingram, RN. \$25 at center, \$35 home visit. Call Brenda at 946-0722 for an appointment.
Feb. 17, 10 a.m.	Men's coffee at Braum's
2 p.m.	Ladies' coffee/tea, Jimmie's Diner.
Feb. 22, 6 p.m.	Covered dish dinner and meeting. Hosts needed. Program TBA.

For services & resources for seniors, call Vicki Shepard, Tri-City Senior Director, 744-1199.

CITY OF BEL AIRE CONTACTS

City Council		
Mayor Harold Smith	744-2650	Recreation Department 744-2700
Dr. Gary Breault	744-0560	Central Park Pool 744-7331
Peggy O'Donnell	744-0250	Parks Department 744-8609
Carolyn Marlier	744-2313	Police
David Austin	744-7188	• Emergency 911
Dave Sly	204-5574	• Non-emergency 744-6000
		Animal Control (Sedgwick County) 660-7070
		Public Works 744-2888
		Water/Sewer Emergency (after 5 p.m.) 761-6972 or 761-6973
		Utility Billing 744-2451, ext. 132
		Trash (Stutzman) 1-800-230-0383
		Hazardous Waste (Sedgwick County) 660-7464
City Hall		
Ty Lasher, City Administrator	744-2451 ext. 217	

BEL AIRE POLICE REPORTS

Jan. 16 — Det. Pentecost arrested Joshua Farmer in the 1900 block of North Amidon on a felony warrant through the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office.

Jan. 15 — Officer Steele and Det. Pentecost responded to an injury accident at 37th North and Oliver. They cited Lawrence Allen for driving with a revoked license.

Jan. 15 — Det. Pentecost arrested Cody Nichols at 6200 Woodlow on a felony warrant through the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office.

Jan. 15 — Officer Hazelwood assisted Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office in the 4800 block of South West.

Jan. 15 — Officer Hazelwood assisted Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office in the 3100 block of South Rutan.

Jan. 14 — Sgt. Griggs assisted Sedgwick County Fire Department in the 4500 block of North Dundee.

Jan. 14 — Det. Pentecost stopped a vehicle for speeding in the 5500 block of East 37th North. Officer arrested Johnny Boudreaux on a charge of driving with a suspended license and on five City of Wichita warrants.

Jan. 14 — Officer Swanson checked on a suspicious person in the 4500 block of North Woodlawn.

Jan. 14 — Officer McGuire checked for an abandoned vehicle in the 4400 block of Eagle Lake.

Jan. 14 — Sgt. Spencer assisted a citizen at the station.

Jan. 13 — Officers Swanson and Mavia and Sgt. Spencer responded to an alarm in the 4700 block of North Glendale.

Jan. 13 — Officers Swanson and Mavia assisted EMS in the 3900 block of North Oliver.

Jan. 13 — Officers Swanson and Mavia and Sgt. Spencer responded to an alarm in the 4100 block of North Auburn.

Jan. 13 — Officer McGuire assisted a Valley Center police officer with a domestic disturbance in the 3800 block of North Woodlawn in Bel Aire.

Jan. 13 — Officer McGuire assisted Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office in the 2900 block of North I-135.

Jan. 13 — Officer McGuire and Sgt. Griggs assisted Wichita Police Department in the 3800 block of North Woodlawn.

Jan. 13 — Officer McGuire assisted Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office at 61st North and Hydraulic.

Jan. 13 — Officer McGuire checked on a suspicious person at 53rd North and Webb Road.

Jan. 13 — Officer McGuire checked on a suspicious person in the 4500 block of Eagle Lake.

Jan. 13 — Det. Pentecost assisted Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office at I-235 and K-254.

Jan. 12 — Officer Steele responded to an alarm in the 3900 block of North Hillcrest.

Jan. 12 — Officers Swanson and Hutton responded to a disturbance at 45th North and Edgemoor.

Jan. 12 — Officer Hutton responded to disorderly conduct in the 6000 block of Flagstaff.

Jan. 12 — Officer Hutton and Sgt. Spencer responded to an animal complaint in the 4100 block of North Harding.

Jan. 12 — Officer Steele and Det. Pentecost responded to an audible alarm in the 3900 block of Hillcrest.

Jan. 12 — Det. Pentecost assisted Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office with an auto accident at 77th North and Webb Road.

Jan. 12 — Sgt. Spencer stood by in the 4400 block of North Edgemoor.

Jan. 11 — Officer Steele assisted Park City Police Department in the 5800 block of North Park Place.

Jan. 11 — Officer Hazelwood reported that Wichita Police Department had arrested Tristen L. Hollins on a City of Bel Aire warrant.

Jan. 11 — Officer Hazelwood assisted Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office by checking on a suspicious person in the 7000 block of East 37th North.

Jan. 11 — Officer Toomey checked on a suspicious vehicle in the 10800 block of East 45th North.

Jan. 10 — Officer Hazelwood responded to an audible alarm in the 4700 block of North Webb Road.

Jan. 10 — Officer Hazelwood checked for a suspicious person in the 5200 block of East 53rd North.

Jan. 10 — Officer Hutton checked for a suspicious person at Turquoise and Remington.

Jan. 10 — Officer Toomey assisted Kechi Police Department in the 6700 block of North Woodlawn.

Jan. 9 — Det. Pentecost assisted EMS in the 4000 block of Clarendon.

Jan. 9 — Det. Pentecost and Officer Hutton assisted Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office at I-235 and K-254.

Jan. 9 — Officer Hazelwood took a vandalism report in the 4800 block of North Farmstead.

Jan. 9 — Officer Hutton assisted Kechi Police Department in the 320 block of West Cherokee.

Jan. 8 — Officers McGuire and Hazelwood assisted Wichita Police Department with a domestic case at 29th North and Rock Road.

Jan. 8 — Officer McGuire took a vandalism report in the 4800 block of Farmstead.

Jan. 8 — Officer McGuire responded to a burglary in-progress in the 320 block of West Cherokee.

Jan. 8 — Officers Hutton and Hazelwood assisted Kechi Police Department in the 300 block of Sioux.

Jan. 8 — Officer Hutton checked for an abandoned vehicle in the 5000 block of Prestwick.

Jan. 8 — Officer McGuire and Sgt. Griggs checked for a suspicious person in the 4500 block of North Fritillary.

Jan. 8 — Officer Hazelwood responded to a 911 hang-up call in the 4800 block of North Farmstead.

Jan. 7 — Officer McGuire responded to an audible alarm in the 3900 block of North Woodlawn Circle.

Jan. 7 — Officer McGuire stopped a vehicle for traffic violation in the 5000 block of North Woodlawn. He arrested Stanley A. Wheeler on a City of Wichita warrant. Officer also issued Wheeler citations for speeding and driving with an expired tag.

Jan. 7 — Det. Pentecost checked on a suspicious person in the 4000 block of Clarendon.

Jan. 7 — Officer McGuire and Sgt. Griggs checked the welfare in the 6000 Block of East Flagstaff.

Jan. 7 — Officer McGuire responded to a parking complaint in the 4900 block of North Parkhurst.

Jan. 7 — Officer Swanson assisted Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office with an audible alarm in the 4800 block of North Oliver.

Jan. 7 — Officers Swanson and Hutton assisted a stalled motorist at 37th North and Rock Road.

Jan. 7 — Officer Hutton responded to an audible alarm in the 4800 block of North Hillside.

Jan. 7 — Officer Hutton checked the welfare in the 5300 block of East 49th North.

Jan. 6 — Det. Pentecost took a lost property report in the 5300 block of East 48th North.

Jan. 6 — Det. Pentecost arrested Jamar Howard in the lobby of the city building, 7651 E. Central Park Ave., on a City of Bel Aire warrant.

Jan. 6 — Officer Swanson responded to an animal complaint in the 5800 block of Farmstead.

Jan. 6 — Officer McGuire responded to an audible alarm in the 14700 block of East 45th North.

Jan. 5 — Officer Steele responded to an auto accident in the 9500 block of East 45th North.

Jan. 5 — Officer Hutton responded to a larceny in the 4700 block of North Oliver.

Jan. 5 — Officer McGuire checked for a suspicious person in the 4000 block of North Woodlawn.

Jan. 5 — Sgt. Griggs responded to a larceny in the 4200 block of North Rushwood.

Jan. 5 — Det. Pentecost responded to a non-injury accident in the 4900 block of North Webb Road.

Jan. 5 — Officer Swanson checked the welfare in the 4400 block of North Woodlawn.

Jan. 5 — Officer Hutton assisted Sedgwick County Fire Department in the 4300 block of North Mission.

Jan. 4 — Officer Steele cited Todd Goodman for driving with a suspended license in the 4200 block of North Oliver.

Jan. 4 — Officer Steele arrested Todd Goodman in the 6700 block of East 45th North on a City of Wichita bench warrant.

Jan. 4 — Officer Steele received found property at 7651 E. Central Park Ave.

Jan. 4 — Officer Hazelwood assisted EMS in the 4000 block of North Oliver.

Jan. 4 — Det. Pentecost assisted Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office in the 4100 block of Clarendon.

Jan. 4 — Officer Hutton responded to a vandalism report in the 6200 block of Quail Ridge.

Jan. 4 — Officer Hutton assisted a stalled motorist in the 4500 block of North Woodlawn.

Jan. 4 — Officers Hutton and Toomey responded to an audible alarm in the 4300 block of North Mission.

Jan. 4 — Officer Swanson assisted Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office with a reckless driver in the

7900 block of North Greenwich.

Jan. 4 — Officer Steele checked the welfare in the 5800 block of East Clarendon.

Jan. 3 — Officer Steele responded to a burglary in-progress in the 6400 block of East Rodeo.

Jan. 3 — Officers Steele and Pate responded to a domestic disturbance in the 6400 block of East Rodeo. They cited Thomas Doyle for driving with a suspended license.

Jan. 3 — Officers Steele and Pate responded to an alarm in the 4100 block of North Woodlawn.

Jan. 3 — Officers Swanson and Hutton received found property in the 6200 block of East Clarendon.

Jan. 2 — Officer Steele checked the welfare at 7651 E. Central Park Ave.

Jan. 2 — Officers Hazelwood and McGuire assisted Sedgwick County Fire Department in the 4300 block of North Eagle Lake Drive.

Jan. 2 — Officers Hazelwood and McGuire checked the welfare in the 4400 block of Edgemoor.

Jan. 2 — Officers McCaslin and Hutton removed material from the road at K-254 and east 63rd North.

Jan. 1 — Officer McGuire responded to an alarm in the 4800 block of North Hedgerow.

Jan. 1 — Officer Foxx checked on an abandoned vehicle in the 6200 block of East Clarendon.

Jan. 1 — Officer Foxx assisted Wichita Police Department in the 7100 block of East 40th North.

Jan. 1 — Officer McGuire checked on a suspicious person in the 4900 block of North Woodlawn.

Dec. 31 — Det. Pentecost cited James S. Mares for driving with a suspended license in the 5300 block of North Woodlawn.

Dec. 31 — Officer Swanson and Sgt. Spencer responded to an alarm in the 5900 block of East 41st North.

Dec. 31 — Officer Swanson assisted Wichita Police Department with a disturbance at 29th North and Rock Road.

Dec. 31 — Officer Swanson checked on a suspicious person in the 8000 block of East 53rd North.

Dec. 31 — Sgt. Spencer assisted a citizen at 45th North and Auburn.

Dec. 31 — Officer McGuire assisted Kechi Police Department in the 7900 block of East Millstream.

Dec. 31 — Officer McGuire and Sgt. Griggs checked on a suspicious vehicle at Danbury and Garrison.

Dec. 31 — Det. Pentecost and Officer Foxx checked on a suspicious person in the 5800 block of North Woodlawn.

Dec. 30 — Officer Foxx and Det. Pentecost responded to an auto accident in the 5000 block of North Rock Road.

Dec. 30 — Officer Foxx responded to trespassing in the 4300 block of Eagle Lake.

Dec. 30 — Officer Swanson arrested Steven Rogge at the Bel Aire Police Department on two City of Wichita warrants.

Dec. 30 — Sgt. Spencer and Officer Foxx checked the welfare in the 4900 block of Willow Point.

Dec. 30 — Officer McGuire checked on a suspicious person in the 6300 block of East Crestmark.

Dec. 30 — Officer Foxx checked the welfare in the 4200 block of Westlake.

Dec. 30 — Det. Pentecost assisted Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office in the 4000 block of Danbury.

Dec. 29 — Officer Steele responded to a hit-and-run accident in the 3800 block North Hillcrest.

Dec. 29 — Officers Steele and Foxx assisted animal control in the 4900 block of East Willow Point Court.

Dec. 29 — Officer Foxx checked for a suspicious person at Auburn and Flagstaff.

Dec. 29 — Officer Swanson arrested Terri Tucker at the Bel Aire Police Department on a City of Wichita UCC warrant.

Dec. 29 — Sgt. Spencer responded to a public nuisance in the 4900 block of Hedgerow.

Dec. 29 — Officer Swanson and Sgt. Spencer responded to shots fired in the 4400 block of North Rushwood.

Dec. 29 — Officer Foxx removed material from the road at K-254 and Rock Road.

Dec. 29 — Officer McGuire checked for an abandoned vehicle in the 3900 block of North Edgemoor.

Dec. 28 — Officer Steele responded to an alarm in the 3900 block of North Woodlawn Court.

Dec. 28 — Officer Steele responded to a 911 hang-up call in the 4900 block of North Woodlawn.

Dec. 28 — Officer Foxx responded to a 911 hang-up call in the 6600 block of East Rodeo Court.

Dec. 28 — Officer Hutton responded to an alarm in the 5900 block of East 37th North.

Dec. 28 — Officer Hutton checked the welfare in the 4500 block of Hillcrest.

Dec. 28 — Officer Hutton responded to an audible alarm in the 5900 block of East 37th North.

Dec. 28 — Officer Swanson assisted Wichita Police Department with a disturbance in the 4500 block of North Hillcrest.

Dec. 28 — Officer Foxx responded to an audible alarm in the 3900 block of North Woodlawn.

Dec. 28 — Officer Foxx responded to a 911 hang-up call in the 4900 block of North Woodlawn.

Dec. 28 — Officer Foxx responded to a 911 hang-up call in the 6600 block of East Rodeo.

Dec. 27 — Officer Toomey assisted Kechi Police Department at Woodlawn and K-254

Dec. 27 — Officer Steele checked on an abandoned vehicle at 53rd North and Woodlawn.

Dec. 26 — Officers Hutton and McCaslin responded to an alarm in the 4700 block of North Hillcrest.

Dec. 26 — Officer McCaslin assisted a motorist in the 5300 block of East 37th North.

Dec. 25 — Officer Steele assisted Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office in the 12900 block of East 77th North.

Dec. 25 — Officer Swanson responded to disorderly conduct in the 4900 block of Willow Point Circle.

Dec. 25 — Officer Swanson responded to a disturbance in the 4500 block of North Westlake.

Dec. 25 — Officers Foxx and Steele assisted Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office in the 12900 block of East 77th North.

Dec. 24 — Officers Foxx and Steele responded to an animal call in the 5100 block of Ashton Court.

Dec. 24 — Officer Hutton responded to disorderly conduct in the 4500 block of North Westlake Court.

Dec. 24 — Officers Swanson and Hutton responded to an alarm in the 6300 block of East 37th North.

Dec. 24 — Officer Foxx assisted Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office by removing material from the road at K-254 and North 143rd East.

Dec. 24 — Officer Hutton removed material from the road in the 5900 block of East 53rd North.

Dec. 24 — Officer McGuire assisted a motorist at St. James and Central Park.

Dec. 23 — Officer Foxx responded to an alarm in the 4800 block of Homestead.

Dec. 23 — Officers Hazelwood and McGuire checked for a suspicious person in the 4800 block of East Ashton.

Dec. 23 — Officers McGuire and Hazelwood responded to a burglary in-progress in the 4600 block of Farmstead.

Dec. 23 — Officer Swanson checked on a suspicious person in the 7900 block of North Rock Road.

Dec. 23 — Officer Foxx assisted a motorist in the 4000 block of North Oliver.

Dec. 22 — Officer Hutton received found property in the 5600 block of East 49th North.

Dec. 22 — Officer Hutton assisted a citizen with a lockout in the 4900 block of North Highland.

Dec. 22 — Officer Hazelwood assisted Wichita Police Department at K-96 and Woodlawn.

Dec. 22 — Officer Hazelwood responded to an audible alarm in the 4500 block of Homestead.

Dec. 21 — Officer Steele assisted EMS in the 5800 block of East Flagstaff.

Dec. 21 — Officer Foxx checked for a suspicious person in the 4600 block of Farmstead Court.

Dec. 21 — Officer Steele assisted EMS in the 5800 block of East Flagstaff.

Dec. 21 — Officer Toomey assisted a motorist in the 3900 block of North Woodlawn.

Dec. 21 — Officer Foxx responded to a 911 hang-up call in the 3900 block of North Oliver.

Dec. 21 — Officer Foxx assisted a citizen in the 4900 block of North Woodlawn.

Dec. 20 — Officer Steele responded to vandalism in the 11200 block of East 53rd North.

Dec. 20 — Officer Toomey responded to a lost dog in the 5700 block of East Denise.

Dec. 20 — Officer Foxx responded to an audible alarm in the 6600 block of Summerside.

Dec. 20 — Officer McCaslin assisted Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office at 61st North and Greenwich.

Dec. 20 — Officers McCaslin and Hutton responded to an audible alarm in the 4900 block of North Hedgerow.

Dec. 20 — Officer Hutton responded to an audible alarm in the 6600 block of East Summerside Place.

Dec. 20 — Officer Hutton assisted Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office in working an accident at K-254 and Greenwich.

Dec. 20 — Officer Hutton assisted Kechi Police Department by checking the welfare at K-254 and Woodlawn.

Dec. 19 — Officer Hutton responded to fraud in the 5700 block of East Perryton.

Dec. 19 — Officers Hutton and McCaslin responded to an audible alarm in the 6300 block of East Crestmark.

Dec. 19 — Officer Hutton assisted EMS in the 4600 block of Krueger.

Dec. 19 — Officer Hutton checked on a suspicious person in the 5900 block of Woodlawn.

Dec. 19 — Officers McGuire and Pate responded to a disturbance in the 400 block of North Sioux.

Dec. 19 — Officers Pate and

McCaslin assisted Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office in the 5300 block of North Greenwich.

Dec. 18 — Officer Steele responded to a hit-and-run accident in the 6800 block of East Summerside Place.

Dec. 18 — Officer McGuire arrested Krystle Sprague in the 3800 block of North Oliver on a charge of DUI.

Dec. 18 — Sgt. Griggs assisted EMS in the 4800 block of North Hedgerow.

Dec. 18 — Det. Pentecost responded to a disturbance in the 4500 block of North Woodlawn.

Dec. 18 — Sgt. Spencer and Officer Hutton responded to a 911 hang-up call in the 4900 block of Parkhurst.

Dec. 18 — Officer Hutton checked the welfare of a citizen at Woodlawn and Perryton.

Dec. 18 — Officer Steele responded to a disturbance in the 4500 block of North Woodlawn.

Dec. 17 — Officer McGuire responded to vandalism in the 4300 block of North Eagle Lake Court.

Dec. 17 — Officer McGuire and Sgt. Spencer assisted Wichita Police Department by arresting Joshua Halstead in the 4300 block of North Eagle Lake Court on a City of Wichita warrant.

Dec. 17 — Officer Brandewiede received found property near East 45th North and Woodlawn.

Dec. 17 — Officer McCaslin arrested Cody Nichols at 7651 E. Central Park Ave. on a charge of probation violation.

Dec. 17 — Det. Pentecost responded to vandalism in the 6700 block of East 45th North.

Dec. 17 — Sgt. Spencer and Officer Medlin assisted Sumner County Sheriff's Office in recovering stolen property in the 4300 block of Eagle Lake Court.

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BLAZING STARS 4-H

The Bel Aire Blazing Stars 4-H club met Dec. 14 for its annual Christmas party with the senior citizens who live in the apartments at Gospel Assembly Church. The 4-H'ers led carols and games and shared holiday treats.

Jan. 11 was a regular monthly business meeting.

The next meeting will be the annual cake auction Feb. 8 at Gospel Assembly Church, 4220 N. Oliver (south of 45th North on Oliver). The cake auction begins at 7:15 p.m. and is open to the public.

For more information, contact Sarah Hammond at 260-6118 or Dana Williams at 744-3031.



Elle Reimschisel at the Christmas party dressed for the snowman competition.

By Chris Hunter

After more than four years on the lamb, a former Wichita State basketball player is behind bars.

A Bel Aire Municipal Court trial date has been set for former Wichita State University basketball star Jamar Howard.

Howard is facing charges of possession of marijuana, DUI, speeding, refusal to take a preliminary breath test, failure to yield to an emergency vehicle and failure to appear in court, stemming from a 2005 arrest.

Howard turned himself in to Bel Aire authorities on Jan.



Howard

Bel Aire police officials would not comment on the case or Howard's whereabouts the past four years.

According to the Web site www.eurobasket.com, Howard has been playing basketball since he left WSU

6. Howard graduated from Wichita State in 2005 after starting all four years for the Shockers.

in 2005.

Howard played for the San Jose Skyrockets in American Basketball Association (2005-2006), the Great Falls Explorers in the Continental Basketball Association (2006-2007) and the Dodge City Legend in United States Basketball Association (2007).

Howard then played in Europe for the VVP Giants Noerdlingen in Germany and the FC Bayern Muenchen. While with the Giants, Howard was part of the German 2 Bundesliga Pro A Regular Season championship team.

Howard started 30 games for FC Bayern Muenchen

in Munich, averaging 14.2 points per game and 5.8 rebounds per game with a 61.3 field goal percentage.

Bel Aire Police Chief John Daily said Howard turned himself in at the direction of his attorney.

Howard had been on Bel Aire's list of Top 10 Most Wanted.

"It is always good to find someone after a period of time," Daily said. "It is always good to clear one of those off."

Daily said the Bel Aire Police Department changes the list from time to time.

"It keeps it fresh in everyone's mind," he said.

PEOPLE HIGHLIGHTS

Gerardo and Sara Guzman, both of Bel Aire, were married June 12, 2009, at St. Margaret Mary Church in Wichita. Father Richard Stuchlik and Bishop Amilcar Acosta officiated the service.

The bride is the daughter of Dennis and Terry Poell of Kechi. The groom is the son of Amilcar and Olga Acosta of Wichita.

Sara is a senior associate in state and local taxation for Allen, Gibbs and Houlik, L.C. Gerardo is a credit risk analyst for Invista.

The couple honeymooned in Barcelona, Spain, and live in Bel Aire.

†††

Glen and Rita Goodwin of Wichita celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary Dec. 27, 2009. They celebrated with a Mass at the Spiritual Center and dinner at St. Francis' Stewardship Hall with their family on Dec. 26, 2009.

Glen R. Goodwin and Rita

J. Uhlschmidt were married Dec. 27, 1949. They have two children: William M. "Bill" and Ellen Goodwin of Cheney and Kimberly "Kim" and Don Bright of Chadron, Neb. They have eight grandchildren: Matthew Goodwin of Cheney, Christi Leewright of Overland Park, Andrew and Kristi Uhlschmidt of Bel Aire, Patrick and Jamie Goodwin of Haysville, Marianna Leewright of Wichita, Shawn Goodwin of Seattle, Veronica Goodwin of Omaha, Neb., and Judy Goodwin of Cheney. The couple also has six great-grandchildren.

†††

Amanda Orloske and Hannah Hunsinger, both of Bel Aire, were named to the 2009 fall semester dean's list at Pittsburg State University.

To receive this honor, a student must complete at least 12 semester hours, receive a grade point average of 3.60 for all credit course work that semes-

ter, have no grade lower than a B and no grade of I in any course during the semester.

Orloske, a junior, is majoring in biology. Hunsinger, also a junior, is majoring in nursing.

†††

A tractor safety program for 14- and 15-year-old youth will be conducted by the Sedgwick County 4-H Department. Classes will be held at the Extension Office, 7001 W. 21st North, Wichita, from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Feb. 22, 23, 25 and 26.

The training program consists of eight hours of classroom instruction and two hours of practical on-the-job training, which they line up themselves. Youth who successfully complete the course will receive their tractor operator's permit. After completing their two hours of driving, a U.S. Labor Certificate will be issued to the student.

Eric Otte, Sedgwick County

Extension 4-H agent, said youth are required to have the training before they can work on a farm other than their parents'.

Employers should be reminded it is unlawful to hire 14- and 15-year-old youth to operate tractors on their farms who do not have their permit. In case of accident, the employer's insurance will not cover the youth.

There is a \$15 enrollment fee for the class. Youth may enroll by calling the Sedgwick County Extension Office at 660-0100. Class size limited to the first 35 who register and pay the enrollment fee. Checks should be made payable to EDUCATIONAL FUND and mailed to Eric Otte, 7001 W. 21st St. North, Wichita, KS, 67205-1759.

Enrollment deadline is Feb. 16.

†††

Kimberly Brandt, DonnaJo Husinger and Ton-Vinh Nguy-

en of Bel Aire were named to the dean's list for the fall semester of 2009 at Newman University. To make the dean's list, a student must compete 12 credit hours and have attained a grade point average of 3.5 or better.

†††

The first Central Kansas Vegetable Growers Workshop will be held from 8:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Feb. 6 at the Sedgwick County Extension Education Center, 7001 W. 21st North in Wichita.

Sponsored by Sedgwick, Butler, Harvey and Reno County Extension offices, the workshop will be held in the 4-Hall at the center. It is designed to give beginning and experienced vegetable growers new skills to improve their production methods and marketing skills for selling their local vegetables, while meeting an increasing demand for locally grown produce. Keynote speaker Patrice

Gros is a full-time, organic vegetable farmer from Arkansas. The workshop will cover the basics of vegetable production that includes building soil fertility, starting transplants from seed, season extension, crop planning, insect control and marketing.

Workshop cost is \$15. Call Rebecca McMahon at 660-0142 for more information.

DEATH

ARVILLA PORTER

Arvilla J. Porter, 86, of Bel Aire, died Jan. 9, 2010. Service was Jan. 12 at Petersen Funeral Home in Newton.

Survivors included daughter and son-in-law Sharon and Glen Damon of Wichita; six grandchildren, six great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

Memorial with Harry Hynes memorial Hospice.

CHURCH HIGHLIGHTS

Christ Lutheran Church

Sunday services include worship at 8:15 and 10:45 a.m., with Sunday school for both children and adults at 9:30.

The church is located at 5356 N. Hillside, across from Heights High School, at 53rd North and Hillside.

Find the church online at www.christ-lutheran.org; e-mail office@clc.kscoxmail.com. Call the church office at 744-1242 for more information.

Church of the Resurrection

Church of the Resurrection (Roman Catholic) is located at 4910 N. Woodlawn in Bel Aire.

Masses for the Lord's Day are Saturday at 5:30 p.m. and Sunday at 8:30 and 11 a.m. Weekday Masses are 8 a.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; also at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

Resurrection Catholic School has students from preschool through eighth grade.

The parish/school Web site is www.resurrectionwichita.com. Phone number is 744-2776. Rev. Sherman A. Orr is the pastor.

Community Bible Chapel

The church is located at 4551 Auburn, south of 45th North between Oliver and Woodlawn, in Bel Aire.

On Sunday at 9 a.m. is worship service and breaking of the bread, with Bible study and Sunday school at 10:30.

Wednesday evening, prayer and Bible study is at 7 p.m.

For more information, call Melvan Adair at 744-7091.

Crossroads Friends Church

Crossroads Friends Church meets at Stucky Middle School (east from 45th North and Hillside) at 10 a.m. every Sunday, with its Worship Experience in the school cafeteria starting at 10:30.

Every Sunday at Crossroads includes a Moonwalk for kids, Crossroads Cafe and Coffee bar, relevant and engaging messages, cutting-edge music with a live band and a dynamic Crossroads Kids program.

Lead pastor is David Norman and associate pastor is Jeff

Mullen.

Call the church office at 361-0407 or visit it online at www.crossroadswichita.com.

Fairmount United Church of Christ

The church is located at 1605 Fairmount in Wichita. Adult and children's Sunday school classes begin at 9:15 a.m. with worship service at 10:30. Michael Poage is the pastor. For more information, please call 682-1597 or visit at www.fairmountucc.com.

Kechi United Methodist Church

Located at 4533 E. 61st North in Kechi, the Rev. Guy E. Rendoff is the pastor. Church phone number is 744-1221.

Sunday worship services are at 9:03 and 11 a.m., with Sunday school at 10.

Yoga meets at 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays at Kechi City Hall. Children's choir Chancel choir will not meet again until the fall.

The church's phone number is 744-1221. It is still collecting 18-ounce jars of peanut butter, diapers and tuna fish for the United Methodist Open Door.

Park City Christian Church

Sunday worship service is at 9 a.m. with Sunday school at 10. Bill Nestelroad is pastor of

the church, located at 2230 E. 61st North. Phone 744-0493 or 744-2091. The church accepts food donations for the Union Rescue Mission.

Park City Church of the Nazarene

Sunday school for all ages is at 9:30 a.m. Worship and children's church are at 10:45. The church is located at 2100 E. 61st North in Park City. Wednesday adult Bible study begins at 6:15 p.m. with sandwiches and chips.

Pine Valley Christian Church

Located at 5620 E. 21st North. Sunday school at 9 a.m. with worship at 10:15. For more information call 685-2421.

University United Methodist Church

Located across from the WSU campus at 21st & Yale. Sunday activities include adult and youth educational classes at 9:15 a.m. traditional service at 10:30 and youth group activities from 4 to 6 p.m. E-mail uumc2220@uumc.net; phone 686-6765. Rev. Phil Shull is the pastor.

Send your church's upcoming events and service times to legals@arkvalleynews.com or call 755-0821.

By Chris Hunter

Those yellow buses seen driving around the Wichita-metro area filled to the brim with students will soon be seeing some changes.

After 14 years, the Wichita school board in January voted unanimously to not renew its contract with Durham School Services.

"It was the time for Durham's contract to be up," said district spokeswoman Susan Arensman. "The district decided to look out there and go through the (request for proposal) process and compare and contrast proposals."

Ohio-based busing company First Student was the first group to send in a proposal, followed by Durham.

The process, which began two years ago, allowed companies to send proposals to be viewed by a committee of principals and district officials.

Arensman said the committee interviewed both companies and recommended First Student.

"The buses are newer, which was part of our re-

quest," Arensman said. "The First Student buses also have GPS. Durham has GPS as well, but we don't have access."

The contract for the bus service will not allow First Student to run buses older than seven years old in the district.

Arensman said the GPS technology will allow school officials to track buses.

"The district will be able to see where a bus is if it is late," Arensman said. "It is one less step if a bus is late compared to us having to call Durham and Durham finding out for us. It is more efficient for parents and principals to know where the buses are."

Other benefits the district saw in First Student was more training for employees and similar starting pay.

During the transition process, current Durham drivers will be able to apply for jobs with First Student.

"Bus drivers will have a chance to apply with First Student," Arensman said. "First Student will establish office in town and bus drivers will interview with them.

When it comes down to it, we have 500 buses on the ground and we need drivers. With the proposal, the starting salary is the same as Durham. They will make it as comparable as possible when they make the switch over."

While the district may be in a budget crunch, there is very little savings with the switch.

Arensman said the difference was only a "few thousand dollars" between each company's \$20.3 million bid.

First Student is the largest busing company in the country, followed closely by Durham.

The company already buses students in Lawrence, Olathe, Blue Valley and other northeastern Kansas school districts.

First Student will occupy the same lots as Durham has leased, with First Student taking over the lease after Durham's contract ends in July.

"We are looking forward to the transition," Arensman said. "Parents shouldn't see any major changes except First Student on the side of the school buses instead of Durham."



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Cities balk at plan to shift tax authority

Brunk’s proposal would tie tax levy to valuation levels

By Chris Hunter

In an attempt to bring stability to the Kansas taxpayer, one legislator is looking to stop local governments from increasing taxes.

Rep. Steve Brunk, R-Bel Aire, is proposing to bring a bill before the Kansas House of Representatives that would take away the ability for counties and cities to increase property taxes on residents.

At a news conference on Jan. 8, Brunk introduced his plan.

“We have been working on property taxes for the last decade,” Brunk told reporters.

Brunk claimed property taxes had risen by 92 percent from 1997 through 2008.

“They are escalating at a rate that is almost devastating to our economy,” Brunk said. “Especially for lower incomes and fixed incomes and people who are elderly.”

Brunk said he is trying to address the problem.

One group helping Brunk spread his message is the Kansas Policy Institute, formerly the Flint Hills Center for Public Policy.

The Kansas Policy Institute helped run focus groups for Brunk and even helped with his news conference.

Brunk spoke about the need for property tax reform and the failed Proposition K.

“It was a structural change in the way we collect property taxes,” Brunk said. “It was very, very aggressive. We presented



Chris Hunter

Rep. Steve Brunk, R-Bel Aire, discusses property tax reform on Jan. 8 at the Wichita Area Builders Association. Brunk is proposing a change in the way cities regulate their mill levy.

that to the legislature with a number of co-sponsors. It was very well received.”

Brunk said Proposition K became too complicated and needed to be simplified.

“It needed to be stable for homeowners, homebuilders and developers,” Brunk said. “It also needs to be predictable so they can see where they will be in five years.”

Another group said a new plan should also be predictable for cities.

The proposal

Brunk said his legislation would give people a vote on property tax increases and still give governments a “predictable stream of revenue to provide the necessary resources.”

The bill forces cities to lower the mill levy if “property

valuation in any municipality increases due to increases in the assessed valuation of the existing real property” to equal the amount of ad valorem property taxes levied in the “next previous year.”

Brunk said construction in cities would help increase the valuations.

Also, the bill would allow cities to raise the mill levy if the “total taxable real estate property valuation in any municipality decreases.”

If a city should need more money, it will not be easy.

Cities would have to seek a vote of the citizens to increase any property taxes.

“Those kinds of increases in property taxes dramatically cut into any discretionary income a family might have,” Brunk said. “This doesn’t preclude local units of government from getting more money if they need

more money. We simply put a provision in there to where they have to ask the people.”

Brunk said citizens will support increases if they see it’s necessary, such as school bond issues and Intrust Bank Arena.

“This puts taxing authority, at least increases, back to the people,” Brunk said.

When asked specifically about how Kechi, a city in his district, would be affected, Brunk said he felt Kechi would benefit. Kechi just went through a difficult budget cycle in which it raised its property tax levy by 10 mills.

“Kechi might be positively affected,” Brunk said. “Kechi is on the bubble of new construction. Particularly the new development that has been plotted along the north side of 61st. When those houses starting coming online, when the economy picks back up, they will see the benefit of all of those assessed valuations. The local government of Kechi will actually benefit.”

Dave Trabert, president of the Kansas Policy Institute, said people wrongly believe cities need all of the money they receive to function.

“Think about it,” Trabert told reporters. “Has anybody asked ‘does government need all of the money they have been spending? Is government operating as efficiently as it can?’”

Trabert pointed to a study on school spending done by his group about how similarly-sized school districts spend different amounts of money for student services to show how cities waste taxpayer money.

“No one has ever gone back to look and see if government is operating as efficiently as it

can,” Trabert said. “Legislative post-audits show schools aren’t.”

Trabert said carryover cash points to wasteful spending and proof of excessive taxes.

Brunk said he is getting positive feedback on the “simplicity” of the bill from both sides of the aisle.

Cities react

Despite the bipartisan interest Brunk is claiming from Topeka, cities are not responding positively to the proposed bill.

In Park City, City Administrator Jack Whitson said he does not believe Brunk’s bill would work for cities.

“Rep. Brunk needs to become a council member in Bel Aire, then he will understand the issues facing cities,” Whitson said in an e-mail to The Breeze. “Here again some legislator wants the rules to comply with everyone except themselves.”

Whitson said he felt there is a problem with the state’s appraisal policies but said the legislation is unfair to cities since the state also has a mill levy.

“Instead of addressing those problems, it is much easier to attack the cities,” Whitson said. “If Mr. Brunk can put a hold on fuel prices, contractor prices, supply prices, utility costs, health insurance and employee salaries, then I think his bill is worth considering. However, Rep. Brunk is not living in the same world I do.”

Whitson said he felt the bill shows a takeover of local government by the state by forcing a vote on increasing the mill levy.

“Why have city councils? We just can put everything up to a vote of the people,” Whitson “Elections cost money too. Rep. Brunk needs to understand that the state has a mill levy also, and so when the appraisals go up, so do the state revenues. Will the state be willing to have a vote on their tax increase, or reduce their mill levy like he proposes for cities? I doubt it. If they want to fix something, then they need to fix the appraisal system in Kansas.”

Valley Center City Administrator Joel Pile said he also felt the idea was flawed.

“I think that type of decision regarding property taxes should be left up to city officials,” Pile said.

Pile said the term “stealthy tactics” regarding cities increasing taxes was inappropriate.

“I didn’t like the term,” Pile said. “Already, if we collect more revenues, we have to pass a resolution saying we had a tax increase.”

Pile said Kansans are paying lower property taxes than other places in the country because of the way houses are appraised.

Pile suggested houses start being appraised on fair market value rather than 10 to 20 percent below the value.

“Houses are worth more than they appraise for,” Pile said. “I could go offer to buy someone’s house at the appraised value and they would want to sell it to me at market value. Property tax values are not a major problem in Kansas.”

Pile said he hopes the bill does not pass.

“It doesn’t make sense to me that we have representative democracy, but we have these (Taxpayers Bill of Rights) people pushing for direct democracy,” Pile said. “It doesn’t work in Colorado and I think it is ironic coming up in election year for Rep. Brunk. It needs to go away.”

Cold mix the cheaper solution

By Chris Hunter

During a 2008 election, Bel Aire residents defeated a 1-cent sales tax increase to help pay for roadwork and paving the city could not afford, but now residents and city officials may be getting help from outside the city.

For the second time in less than two years, Bel Aire will be getting a mile of paved road along 53rd North.

Sedgwick County and Bel Aire will split the cost of the cold-mix paved section of 53rd North between Woodlawn and Rock for cost around \$70,000.

Cold-mix asphalt is cheaper than other applications. While it doesn’t have the same life expectancy, it’s been an attractive alternatives for cities wanting to pave dirt roads.

Last April, the Bel Aire City Council approved a similar agreement with Sedgwick County and developer Jay Russell to split the cost of \$75,000 in cold mix from Oliver.

“Jay Russell had plotted a new development and was working with the county between Oliver and Woodlawn and we split the cost with them last year,” Lasher said. “The county cold-mixed the road and it came out really well.”

Lasher said the city decided to ask the county to look at putting cold mix between Rock and Oliver because of the new USD 259 schools coming to the area.

Lasher said the school will have a hot-mix asphalt road to the school’s first entrance off of 53rd but the city wanted to extend the pavement to Rock.

“Because of the increased traffic from the school and an entrance to Central Park we went back to the county and asked if they would be willing to do the same thing from

where the new asphalt ends,” Lasher said. “They said they would be willing to split the cost for 2010.”

County Manager Bill Buchanan said one cold-mix road is built by the county per year per commission district.

“We do about a mile in every district every year,” Buchanan said. “It is a cheaper alternative to hot-mix asphalt but doesn’t last as long. We will come in and do it right several years later.”

Deputy director of public works for Sedgwick County Jim Weber said Bel Aire received 1st District’s only road for both 2009 and 2010.

“The (USD 259) schools were a factor,” Weber said. “They were a game changer. It is rare we do one this close to the city. They are typically on the urban fringe.”

Last year, Park City also received 4th District’s road with the cold-mixing of 69th North between Hydraulic and Hillside, said Park City administrator Jack Whitson.

Lasher said the cold mix is a short-term solution to dirt roads because of the cost.

“Ideally, you want to do hot mix with 8-inch asphalt,” Lasher said. “But that type of road, two lanes and a center turn lane, can run you \$1 million a mile.”

Lasher said money is not usually available to build new roads, which can cause problems with developments.

“Development likes blacktop roads,” Lasher said. “One solution is putting in the cold mix and going in later and putting in the hot mix.”

Whitson said Park City also uses cold mix for roads but in a different way.

“We use it as a patch for roads,” Whitson said. “It is one of the best patches aside from

putting hot-mix asphalt in. We use it quite a bit.”

Whitson said cold mix would be a very economical solution for cities if they could afford to buy the equipment and get the training.

“You don’t want just anyone doing it,” Whitson said. “If we had equipment purchased and people to do it, we would probably do it. The cost of equipment is more than we can spend fixing it.”

Lasher said he has seen increased traffic along 53rd North between Woodlawn and Oliver since the cold-mix road was built.

With the cold-mix asphalt being laid, the roads may be getting safer.

Weber said gravel roads create hazards because of the traction.

“The cold-mix roads are safer because the traction is better,” Weber said. “On dirt you have potholes that develop after rains and in snowy conditions. Also, people around here drive too fast on the gravel and breaking is not good.”

Bel Aire Police Chief John Daily said he agrees.

During his time as chief, Daily said several accidents have happened on gravel portions of 53rd North.

“Prior to the cold mix between Woodlawn and Oliver, that section of 53rd was very treacherous,” Daily said.

“Because it was considered a rural road, the speed limit was 55 mph. That, in itself, creates a built-in problem.”

Daily said several major accidents and even a fatality has occurred on 53rd North because of a combination of high speeds and the loose gravel.

Daily said the problem has been fixed with a lower speed limit posted (40 mph) and the hard surface.

“We put a good surface and a good speed limit for traveling on the that road,” Daily said. “It has reduced the number of incidents on that road. Anytime we can afford to hard-surface our road surfaces, the better we will be. I wish they would do it more around town.”

Lasher said estimates on one mile of a cold-mix road come in between \$60,000 and \$100,000.

Estimates from Weber, Whitson and Lasher put the life expectancy of a cold-mix road at a minimum of five years.

“For regular car traffic and being new, it can last for many years,” Lasher said. “We are looking for something to last five to 10 years to get the development in to pay for hot-mix asphalt.”

Lasher said the price of the cold mix makes it a good temporary solution.

Bel Aire’s first experience with the cold mix came with the 2009 paving, but Lasher said citizens have been pleased de-

spite early hesitation by himself and Mayor Harold Smith.

“We are very pleased,” Lasher said. “It turned out very well. For the economical costs, you can’t beat it. We were not sure how it would turn out but the county knew what they were doing and did a great job.”

Weber said the county will soon take over maintenance of the road in preparation for the cold mix and the entire process could take up to eight months.

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